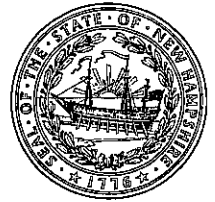




The State of New Hampshire  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**



**Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner**

January 29, 2009

The Honorable Cindy Rosenwald, Chairman  
Health, Human Services & Elderly Affairs  
Legislative Office Building, Room 205  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: HB 324, establishing a commission to study recycling of unused controlled drugs in long-term care facilities

Dear Chairman Rosenwald:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 324, which would establish a commission to study the recycling of unused controlled drugs in long-term care facilities. While the Department defers to the expertise of the Board of Pharmacy, Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Safety regarding the various issues that may be associated with recycling unused controlled medicine, we recognize the need to ensure these materials, as well as noncontrolled unused medicines ultimately do not contaminate our surface water or groundwater resources. For this reason, the Department has researched and published a white paper regarding the management of unused medicine in New Hampshire. The Department also convened a stakeholder group meeting earlier today to begin coordinating efforts to improve how New Hampshire manages unused medicine.

The Department notes that just last week, the United States Drug Enforcement Agency (USDEA) issued a notice seeking recommendations by March 23, 2009 regarding how unused controlled medicine should be managed and regulated. The work of the USDEA on this important topic hopefully will remove regulatory barriers that currently exist that result in the routine discharge of unused controlled medicine into our water resources.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to comment on this bill. Please feel free to call me at 271-2958, or Brandon Kernen at 271-0660, if you have any questions or need additional information.

Very truly yours,

Thomas S. Burack  
Commissioner

cc: Representative Day

DES Web site: [www.des.nh.gov](http://www.des.nh.gov)

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